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During the week ended April 18 there were 267 deaths from cholera, 118 from plague, and 28 from smallpox.

In India during the week ended April 11 there were 10,099 cases and 8,490 deaths from plague.

*Cholera in the coal fields of India—Smallpox prevalent at Simla.*

The following is received from Consul-General Michael, under date of April 23:

Cholera periodically makes its appearance in the coal fields in Bengal when the tanks from which the natives get their water for domestic purposes and at which they perform their ablutions are nearly drying up. It also appears after the first fall of rain has commenced to refill the tanks. The water running over the surface of the earth then carries all kinds of polluting matter with it.

A few days since I heard of a mine at which 600 natives were located. The tanks in the neighborhood became dry or were filled with small quantities of stagnant, slimy water. The water pumped from the mines runs into ditches or over the surface of the soil, anywhere; there was no effort to collect it. There were three wells, one at the manager's bungalow and two at each of his assistants' bungalows. Cholera broke out and the natives began to die at the rate of 20 per diem. The natives were immediately prohibited from getting water from the wells which are used by Europeans. Hence, there was no alternative other than to drink the remaining water and die, or to run away. They chose the latter. It is very noticeable that where a humane colliery management has supplied the labor with wells, there is very little cholera and, if any, the infection can usually be traced to some neighboring stricken village.

In the colliery districts the population is in a very congested state; for instance, in the Jherria coal field alone there are about 50,000 miners, whose chief water supply is obtained from the delivery pipes of shaft pumps. This water is in an unclean condition, for it gravitates into the deep workings through all the old workings where excreta and other filth collect, and the miners themselves must work and trudge in it before it is pumped to the surface.

A letter from Asansol, dated April 21, says: Very few outside this district can realize what a virulent outbreak of cholera is devastating the coal fields from Asansol to Jherria. Only those who are obliged to travel across country over fields and ditches, from colliery to colliery, are able to gauge the force and extent of the epidemic. One by one collieries are shutting down for want of labor, as the miners fly from the scourge. At one place 80 deaths in three days are reported. House servants have succumbed. The oldest resident has not known a severer outbreak or one more general than this. Dead bodies are lying in dry ditches and fields, left to be devoured by vultures and dogs. The scene in some places beggars description, and resembles nothing so nearly as a battlefield after a deadly engagement, and in certain tracts the air is offensive to breathe.